

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A gear coupler for a power transmission comprising:

an outer race having a cylindrical inner surface;

an inner race having a cylindrical outer surface with spaced apart ramped surfaces, said inner race including a support portion defining said ramped surfaces and a slotted portion extending axially from said support portion and having a slot longitudinally disposed therealong;

a plurality of rollers seated between said inner and outer race;

a controllable cage having a plurality of cage pins alternately seated between adjacent pairs of rollers for engaging said rollers with said ramped surfaces, said cage including a cage ring spaced longitudinally from a cage plate and said rollers rotatably coupled therebetween and seated between said inner and outer race; [[and]]

a shifting ring coupled to said cage for axial movement therealong for selectively aligning said rollers between said ramped surfaces to disengage said inner race from said outer race and allow relative rotation therebetween and for wedging said rollers against said ramped surface to engage said inner race with said outer race and prevent relative rotation therebetween in response to varying rotational speeds of said inner and outer races, said shifting ring including a cylindrical center opening for axially receiving said slotted portion of said inner race therein and a shifting pin projecting radially therefrom and received in said longitudinal slot of said inner race; and

said cage including a cam plate projecting longitudinally from said cage ring and said cam plate including a generally V-shaped cam notch for cooperating with said shifting pin as said shifting ring moves axially along said cage.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A gear coupler as set forth in claim [[5]] 1 wherein said cam notch includes a lower section spaced to cage said shifting pin and prevent rotational movement therebetween and an upper contoured section spaced to allow rotation movement of said cage relative to said shifting ring, whereby said axial movement of said shifting ring relative to said cage to position said shifting pin in said lower section of said cam notch aligns said rollers between said ramped surfaces of said inner race to disengage and allow relative rotation between said inner and outer race and axial movement of said shifting ring to position said shifting pin in said upper section allows rotation of said cage to wedge said rollers against said ramped surface between said inner and outer race to prevent relative rotation therebetween.

7. (Currently Amended) A gear coupler for a power transmission, said gear coupler [[10]] comprising:

an inner race comprising a slotted section, said slotted section including a slot longitudinally disposed therealong;

an outer race rotatably coupled to said inner race;

a shifting ring for engaging said inner race and said outer race;

a cage longitudinally disposed between said inner race and said outer race, said cage comprising a cage ring and a cam plate extending longitudinally from said cage ring;

a cam notch disposed on said cam plate; [[and]]

a shifting pin positioned through said shifting ring such that said pin seats within said slot and said cam notch, thereby selectively aligning said shifting ring, said inner race and said cage, wherein said shifting pin follows along said cam notch in response to axial movement of said shifting ring to allow rotation of said cage about said inner race;

a plurality of rollers and a plurality of cage pins alternately disposed between said inner race disposed between said inner race and said outer race, said rollers being freely rotatable when said inner race and said outer race are disengaged for reducing friction therebetween and said cage pins extending longitudinally from said cage ring such that rotation of said cage rotates said cage pins around said inner race and rotation of said rollers around said inner race;

said inner race comprising a support section having a plurality of spaced apart ramped surfaces disposed thereon such that said rollers wedge between said ramped surface and said outer race to engage said inner race and said outer race;

said cage comprising a cage plate longitudinally spaced from said cage ring and resting with said outer race such that said cage pins extend longitudinally from said cage ring to said cage plate; and

an end cap disposed adjacent said cage ring and resting with said outer plate.

8.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A gear coupler as set forth in claim [[17]] 7 further comprising a retaining ring disposed between said shifting ring and said cage ring.

19. (Original) A gear coupler as set forth in claim 18 wherein said inner race further comprises a generally cylindrical outer surface.

20. (Original) A gear coupler as set forth in claim 19 wherein said outer race comprises a generally cylindrical inner surface.